

An important message from MAD's Director of Business & Development,

JEFFREY LOZENGE



Commitment. It's a word often used. Commitment.

See? Ive used it twice already. But commitment is
not contentment. It's spelled differently and
pronounced differently and means something
different because it IS different. This goes
without saying, but I said it anyway.

Which brings me to MAD. Yes, MAD

— the magazine whose time is and
was and continues to be — says many
things to many people that don't need
to be said to anyone. But MAD says
them anyway because it goes without
saying that they MUST be said. Just
like what I said about commitment.

The importance of this cannot be overstated because it has no importance. But just as things that don't need to be said must be said, things that don't seem important often are. And vice versa. Like marriage. Like MAD.

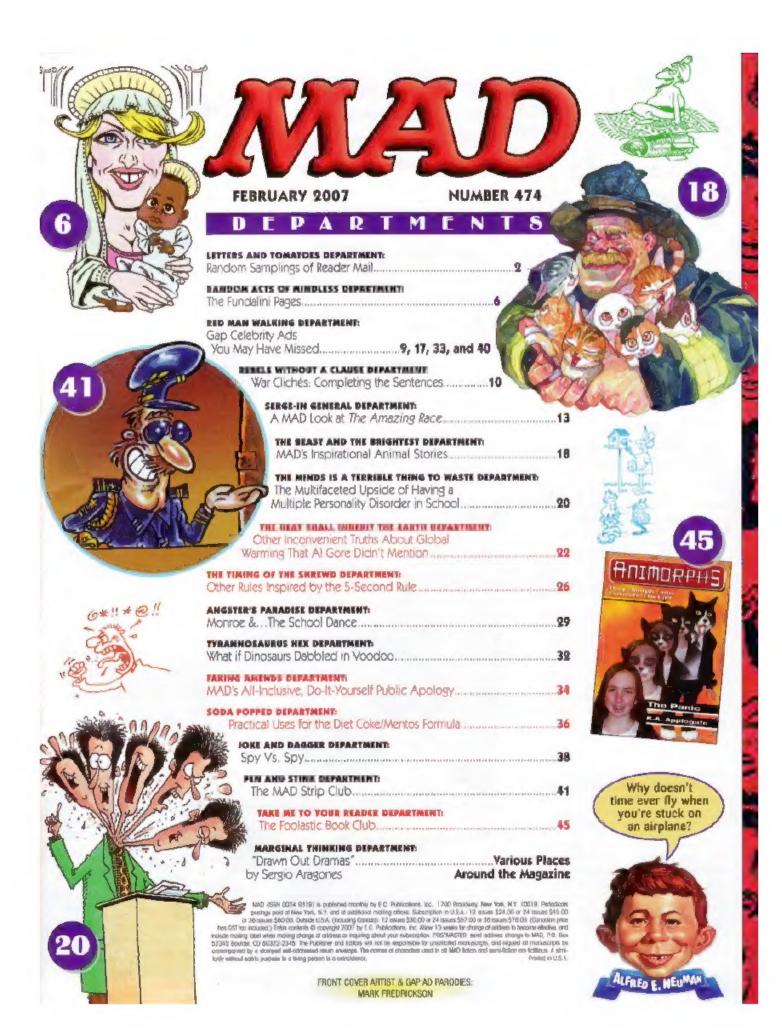
To recap: "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something MAD."

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WIT TO BE TIED

I've always wanted to write a letter to MAD, but was always too lazy to actually write one or to even send one. Glad you've entered into the world of technology for a geek like me who doesn't really like leaving my computer for too long. Too bad I don't have anything witty to say, but it's fun to e-mail you guys nonetheless!

AM Ciotola, Exeler, PA

DJ AM - Thank you for being so upfront and honest. But just because you don't have anything wilty to say, don't let that stop you from writing an e-mail. After all, it doesn't stop us from putting out a magazinel —Ed. P.S. Big. congrats to your Your e-mail was the first printed from letters@madmagazine.comi No more costly postage stamps or painful papercuts! E-mail con't be beat!

A CASE OF GHANA-READER

I am Paul from Ghana, MAD is fast establishing itself here in Ghana and particularly my school. After reading my first issue of MAD I have learned to love it and so am doing my best to spread the news of MAD in my school. I am counting on a few issues, which I think if my submission to the Letters and Tomatoes is considered, I will share them with my pals here in school, so they also can join the band of lunatics.

Paul Gerhardt Fleischer, Teshie, Ghana

Paulie Walnuts - We were so excited to get your letter! We had no idea we even had any readers in Ghana. We don't know if you've been following the U.S. news, but fately, it's become very fashionable for American celebrities such as Madanno and Angelina Jolle to adopt African children. And we decided we want in on that action! So pack your bags and tell your parents that you've got a new family here in America. We're ganna have our legal department look into it, but we're hoping by this time next year, we'll have a new permanent addition to the MAD family! -Ed.

BATHROOM COMPANION

Ha Ha Ha! Brilliant cover of Tom-Kat and baby Suri. I bought that issue without looking inside. I took the cover off and taped it to my bathroom wall, it gives me a reason to smile when I go to the john!

Jeff S., Seattle, WA

Jeffy Pop — We wish more readers would follow your example and buy the magazine without looking inside (people reading it only seems to hurt our sales!) In more important matters though, we went to know what it's daing hanging in your bathroom and why it's making you smile - actually, on second thought, we'd rather stay in the dark on this onel Thanks for writing and happy flushing! -- Ed.

FOOL BRITANNIA

I live in England and I think your magazine is awesome, especially Planet Tad and Spy Vs. Spy. I wish loads of shops here had it, but they're all rubbish. I just want to say two things. One, I think your drawings of Alfred are cool, can you do a "How to draw Alfred" part of the magazine? Also, I want to ask, why do most American cartoons make British people look so posh and always have them drinking tea? Please answer because I'm sure a load of people want to know this too. I've got to go, my pot of tea is ready - Cheerio!

Jamie Papasavvas, London, England

Papa Smurfos — We get a lot of letters from lons asking us how to draw Alfred. However, we get even more letters from MAD cover artist Mark Fredrickson begging us not to give owny his secrets so he can continue to ske out a meager fiving illustrating Alfred. Surely, Jamle, as a posh British bloke, you're busy enough with your fox hunts and polo matches and don't need to take away poor Mark's livelihood as well. Your insplent letter has been a shocking reminder of why the colonies left in the first placel God save the Queen! -Ed.

Anita Eenink and Michael Dallaston of Australia sent in these amazing customized Spy Vs. Spy Legos. What's great about these is that after one of the Spys gets blown to smithereens, he can be put right

back together Remember, if you've depicted a MAD character in a weird, offbeat or unconventional medium, please send it to us via e-mail (put The Big Easel in the sub-ject line) or write to Amy "The Big Easel" Vozeolas c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019.











THE LIZARD OF ODD

In MAD #472 in the article "What Would Happen to Disney Characters in the Real World?" you show Jiminy Cricket getting eaten by the Geico Gecko, I found a mess-up, Geckos don't have long tongues, chameleons do. When a gecko attacks prey, they lunge forward. Chameleons, on the other hand, spit their tongue out like what you showed!

Evan Scott, Vla e-mail

Scatt's Honor — After we read your letter, we went to Wikipedia (the most trusted source of information) and uncovered even more startling misconceptions and mistokes about geckost Did you know they don't speak at all, let alone with a British accent — and, as it turns out, most don't work at large insurance firms. Thanks for your courageous whistle blowing and shame on you, getco, for misteading the American public! —Ed.

A TAD DEMANDING

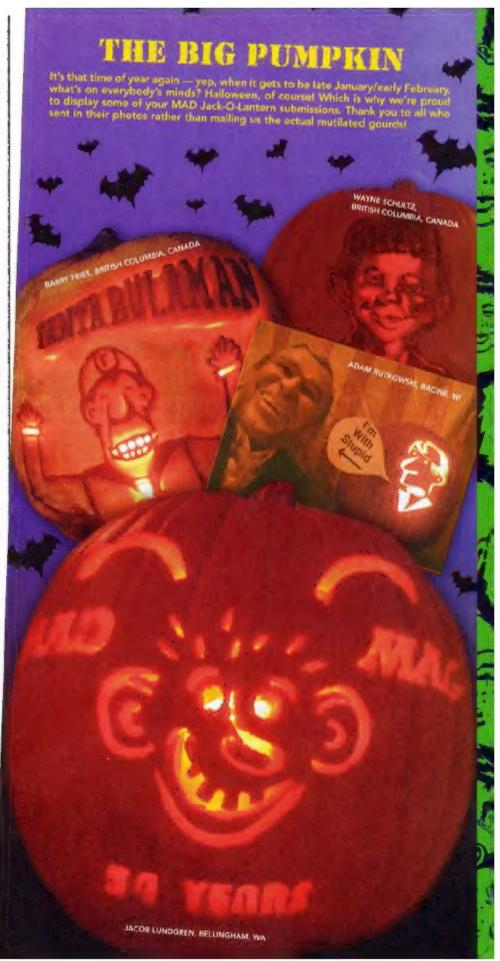
Please don't ever remove Planet Tad, it's simply the most brilliant parody of all these ridiculous rambling blogs ever. Tad is my hero! I don't pay a single cent of my own money for your magazine because I freeload off the issues available at the library where I work! By the way, good luck coming up with a creative joke on my name — all the obvious ones have already been done!

George Buttner, Dayton, OH

Can't Believe it's Not Buttner — You read our magazine without giving us anything in return?!? You need to take a lesson from our favorite reader. Jeff S. He throws money our way without even reading a single world That's the kind of bilind devotion we took for in our readers! Not some cheapskate librarian who throws around demands like he's a paying customer! Shame on you for misleading the American public! —Ed.

MADMLIMBLINES @MADMAB.COM

Once I put an egg in my belly button and it disappeared — shes-still-here... If you were the last person on Earth I'd never forget to send you a Christmas card — dabond007...! just found out that I am bulletproof if you don't shoot me — doornguy...In the near future, the crayon will be the world's top writing device — muffinmaster19...I'm hiding in one of your grandparents' packages of old Velveeta — avsaltheway...When life hands me popsicle sticks, I make tongue depressors — goinyard14.





Holy F&**ing 5*Nt 1 Sharea to Ring Oxbourne was nice enough to pose with MAD 8420, which featured her family, Soon after this photo was taken. Sharen had to run back to her hotel because Ozzy couldn't figure out the remote control and was consuming for her help to find the History Channell.



READER ALERT:

Go to MAD's MySpace page and dick on "VIDEOS". There you'll find an original and disturbingly thorough MADinspired music video by Dee Long, It's truly a viral video — In that it makes us want to throw up!



READER ALERT II!

Those lucky enough to have their letters printed on this letters page will receive a copy of the Deftones album Saturday Night Wrist courtesy of our "friends" at Maverick/Warner Bros. Records. If your missive didn't make the cut, don't worry — the album is out now.



AS SEEN ON TV

As If appearing on Jimmy Kimmel Live wasn't embarrassing enough for My Name is Earl's Jason Lee, Kimmel added insult to injury by holding up MAD #470 with "Earlfred" on the cover. Jason is not amused!



JASON, JAMMY AND EARLERED

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #475 ON SALE FEBRUARY 20!

> A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DANE COOK!

NEXT MONTH IN MAD KIDS #6 ON SALE FEBRUARY 201

BONUS STICKERS AND INTERVIEWS WITH DWYANK WADE AND HANNAH MONTANA'S MILEY CYRUS!

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Contributing Artists And Writers the usual gang of idiots

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How To Reach Us:

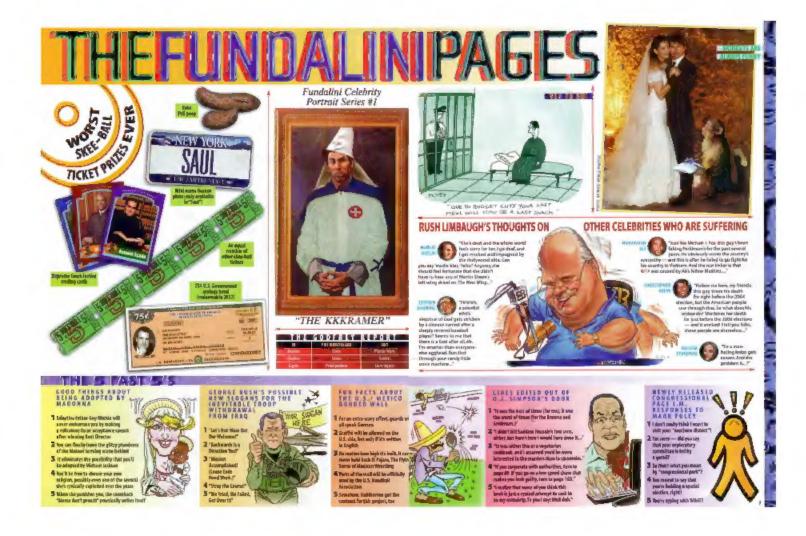
Please Address Correspondence To: MAD, Dept. 474, 1700 Broadway, New York, New York, 10019. Or e-mail us at letters@madmagazine.com

MAD welcomes reader submissions.

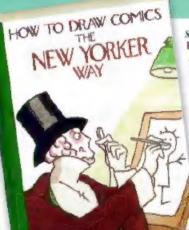
Manuscripts will not be returned or acknowledged, however, unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope!

MAD doesn't read faxed submissions!

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SCHUENPO & AND PUNCT PUBLISHING, 328 PAGES, \$22.95

There are only a handful of uniquely American art forms, like jazz or bumfighting. Foremost among these is the classic New Yorker gag cartoon.

Urbane, droll, mostly embalmed, the best of these inscrutable comic situations let their wry subtleties unfold with a delicious slowness. Lots of slowness. The subdeties can often go unnoticed by the casual reader...and certain members of the magazine's editorial staff...and indeed the creators themselves.

At last, the previously opaque and inexplicable formula of the New Yorker cartoon has been broken down for the aspiring contributor. How to Draw Comics the New Yorker Way is a profusely illustrated tutorial that takes a step-by-step approach.

The New Yorker can sometimes seem like a closed shop, in which the same cartoonists appear, week after week, with fresh vacancies being created only by death. But this simply isn't true. The magazine has a backlog of material from many of its dead artists who continue to monopolize New Yorker space, decades after their bones have rotted.

And yet they teach by example. Seeing the way different artists handle the exact same situation is, for lack of a better word, fascinating. The book includes more than 400 office gage showing a boss having a phone conversation at his desk, and from every possible cartooning angle (three). But the tiny differences in stippling, or the choice of background graytone wash? Those sing volumes.

The book is a cornecopia of valuable "tricks of the trade." For example, always draw one character with an open mouth (or in the highly technical jurgon, the "speaker"). You don't want the reader to think your cartoon is about telepaths.

When drawing your 300th cartoon depicting a father sitting in a high-backed chair giving implausible, matter-of-fact advice to a child, you may be tempted to vary the object placement. Perhaps by reversing the father and the chair, putting the chair on top. The book explains the drawbacks to this.

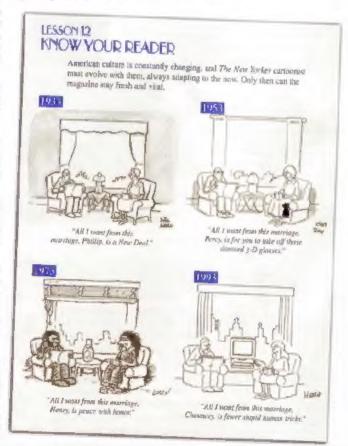
One of the more useful chapters gives tips on petential subject matter. (Hint: The readership simply can't get enough talking dogs.) Children acting like adults! Adults acting like children! Animals acting like children OR adults! And all of them behaving with incongruous detachment! It's laugh-not-loud pandemonium!

It's impossible to underrate the cultural importance of the New Yorker cartoon, especially the pointless ones with the short, squiggly king just walking around. These cartoons aren't there merely to fill the space between the overview of the

APHIC NOVEL

new Frank Stella retrospective at MOMA, and the 14 pages of prose about a Connecticut writer who hates his novel, his wife, his mistress, and himself, They're a fundamental piece of our collective literary tradition. A lot of craft goes into taking whatever catchphrase has been in the public arena lately, and having a sommeller at a wine tasting say it. Or the Grim Reaper. Or a cow

This book is highly recommended for anybody who's always dreamed of drawing ink wash cartoons about board meetings for the rest of their lives. Whether you hope to appeal to the reader that lives on East 66th Street in Manhattan, or the one on 73rd Street, you'll learn the professional tricks that have produced thousands of imperceptible half-chuckles, furrowed brows, contemplative grimaces, and even the occasional flared nostril.

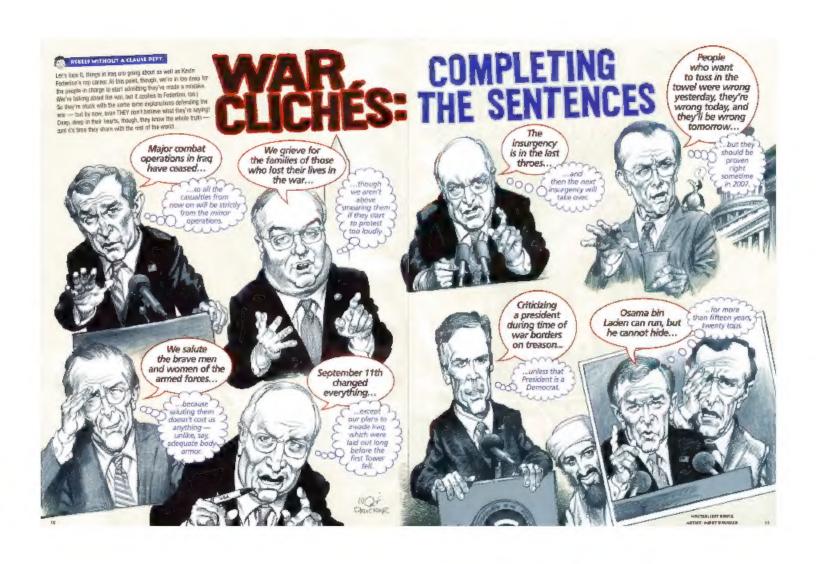


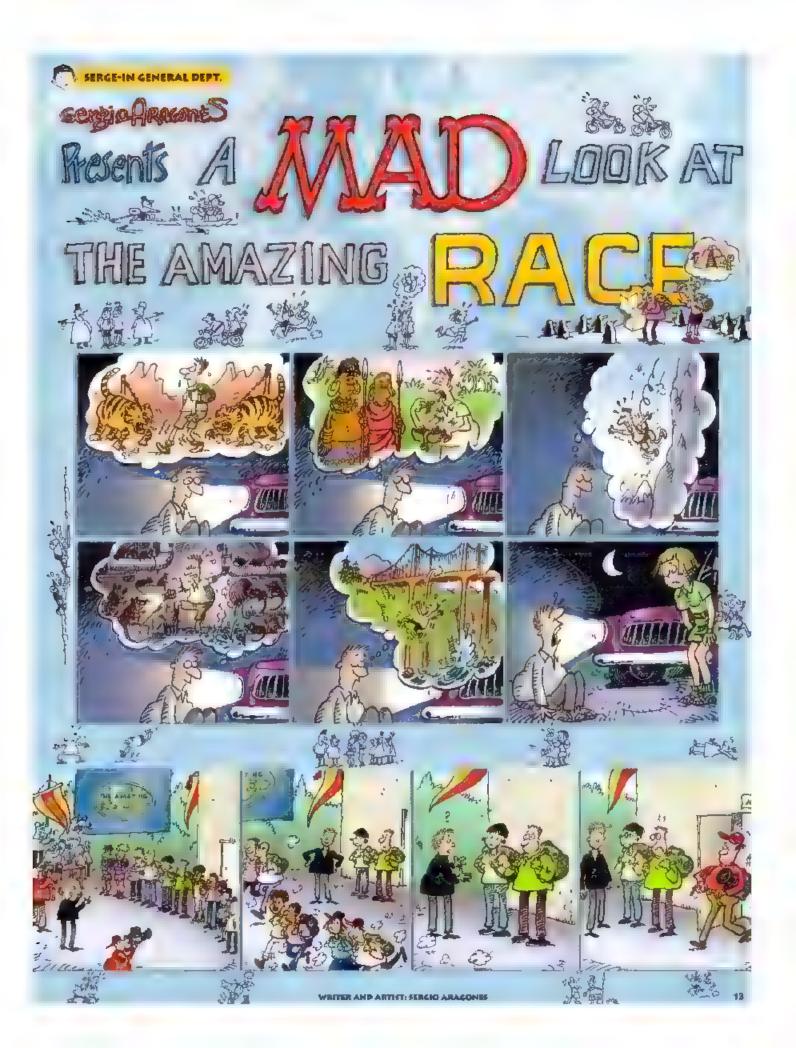
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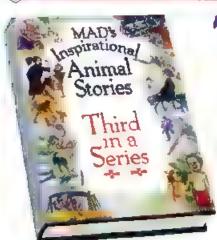












The Eye

Kitten



y name is Joe and I've been a Chicago fireman for almost five months now. In that time you could say I've seen it all. I've seen buildings on fire. I've seen buildings NOT on fire. I've seen things on fire I swear I didn't think could even catch on fire. I've seen "safety" matches that, frankly, didn't look all that "safe." But nothing prepared me for seeing an overcrowded nursing home on fire with an adorable litter of kittens, all confused and scared, trapped inside!

There's more to being a fireman than racing through red lights, squirting water into windows and chopping down doors.

It's called saving lives

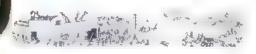
But is a human's life more important than a kitten's? I don't know; that wasn't on the firemen's test. But I know how I felt when I looked in the window and through the smoke saw all those elderly people in a panic, every one of them capable of stepping right on one of those little, defenseless, darling kittens.

I smashed a window, sending glass everywhere. As I went to pick up their cardboard home, it crumbled in my hands. I grabbed a fire helmet from a colleague who had collapsed nearby and I used it as a basket for them. Then outside, I jumped into the closest truck, turned on the siren, and drove north, where I remembered there was a veterinanan's office

I rushed in and handed over the kittens to one of the several vets sitting around the reception area. I didn't have to say anything, my gear and expression said it all and they sprang into action.

Nervously, I paced for what seemed like hours. Finally, a vet emerged and asked me how I wanted to pay for this. I told him we'd charge it to the county

"In that case, we better do more testing," he winked and added, "You go home and get some rest; you can't do any good here."



What good could I do at home? I'd just worry myself sick to the point of vorniting. But I did go home for a change of clothes and, sure enough, I vomited on them before I could get into them.

There were a number of messages on my answering machine. Most were

from the Chief, who wanted to know where I was and what I did with the hook and ladder. Some folks just aren't cat people and you-know-who, I'm afraid, is one of them. I'd call him later; I didn't want to tie up my phone in case the doctors needed to reach me with some urgent, early test results.

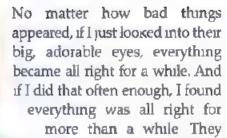
For the next two weeks I practically lived in their reception area, praying for their recovery. At last the test results came: there was a piece of glass in a paw of one kitten, several of them had been dehydrated, and all of them had become addicted to pain killers, but overal, it was good news.

I didn't realize that each of the kittens had been assigned their own night nurse but that sure explained why the bill was almost six figures.

Since their other "home" was burnt to a crisp, I realized I now had 7 new "roommates."

When we got home, I was surprised to learn there was a warrant out for my arrest. It was then I realized that these fuzzy treasures had a special gift to give me.

WRITER: BRIAN MCCONNACHIE ARTIST: LEONARPO ROPRIGUEZ



were magical hours that turned into magical days. Then magical weeks soon followed

Try it and see for yourself. It's what I have come to call the Miracle of the Kittens. But before that, I called it Kitty-time in

B.issville. I'd tried Felines in Funtown – that was okay for a while, but then it started to annoy me. Puttie Tats in Wonderland actually pissed me off, but I used it anyway. Then there's Cutie-Pies from Kremulon, which is a distant planet I travel to when things get weird on Earth and I get the feeling my head is going to start changing shape again.

I'm going to take the kittles with me next time.

Joe the Fireman
 (Temporarily on Indefinite Suspension)



B

THE MINDS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE DEPT.

Multiple Personality Disorder is defined as "a condition in which two or more distinct personalities afternately prevail in the same person." Which means we think you'll afternately overhate this funny/boring article by one of our most beloved/hated and smart/hammerheaded creators/hacks. It s.



The principal is forever on the defensive because he's never certain who's been sent to his office: the absent-minded stacker with a heart of gold, or the psycho Ritalin abuser testering on the brink



When it comes to the school debate team, you know those people who say you can't have it both ways? Well, you can



JOHN CALDWELL 'S

Multifaceted upside of Having a Multiple Personality Disorder in School

WRITER AND ARTIST- JOHN CALPWELL



Way more hall passes than the average student



You get to cast the deciding votes on the prom committee



While the other morens in class are buying highly traceable thesis papers on the internet, you have the advantage of calling upon "Hans," your highly prolific rocket scientist persona



At recess, you're technically never the last one chosen for sports





You have a lower risk factor when it comes to passing notes in class



Multiple nicknames



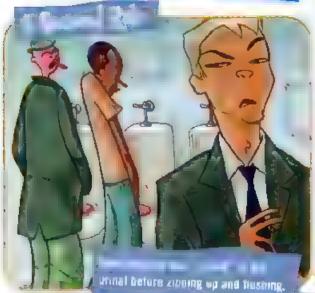


Everybody knows the 5-Second Rule: after you drop a piece of food on the floor, you've got 5 seconds to pick it up before it officially becomes "dirty" and not edible. It's one of those rules that helps people live their lives (and contract salmonel a). But some need more help than others (especially MAD readers)! And that's why we've come up with these...

OTHER RULES
INSPIRED BY THE

SECOND



















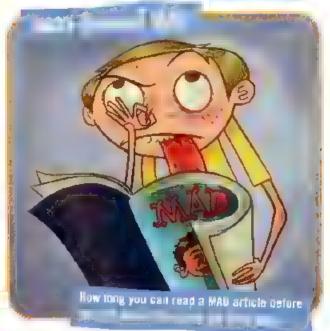














Two left Feet are the least of his problems. It's...

MONROE

The School Dance





















DISAPPEA(RED)

FARENC AMERICA DEPT

task you to ..

Every whell if seems, another politicien, sports star or Hollywood celebrity is busted for some sort of inappropriate behavior. Once their spandals make headlines the culprits want to tall the world that they're sorry. To halp their with their mee culpse, we have vith present

WAD's ALL-INCLUSIVE DO-IT-YOURSELF

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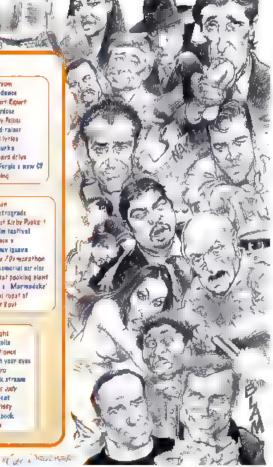
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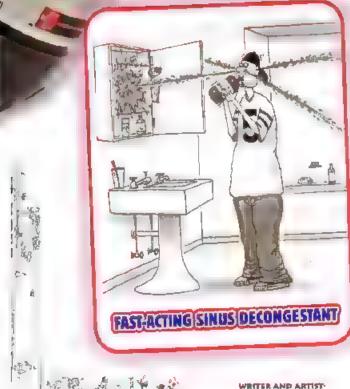
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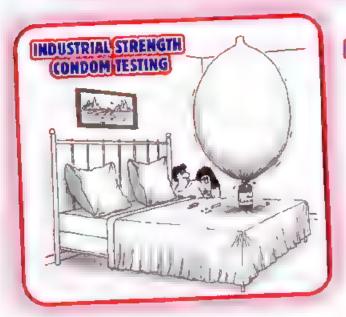
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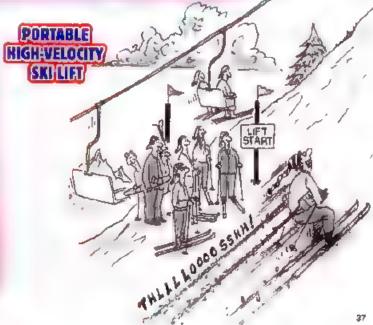


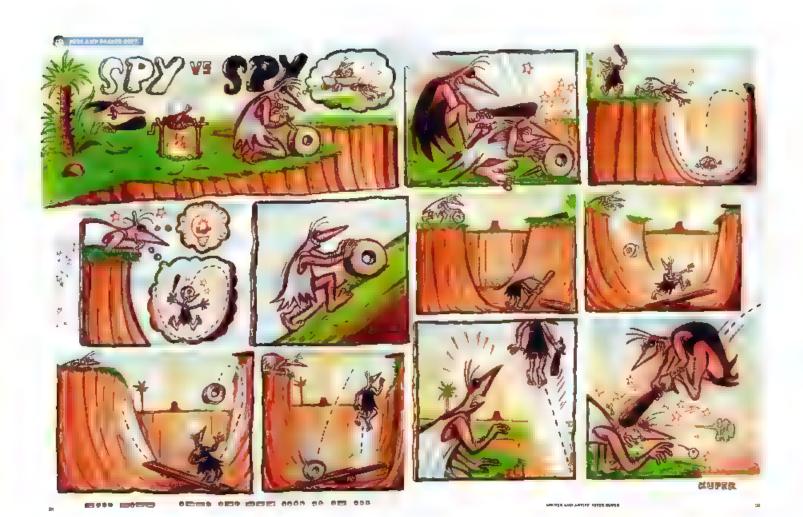












GJ. SIMPSON CRAP (PRODUCT) NORGE ABHOR(RED)





















Me BLACK

THESTITIE



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SIMILAR TO OLD MOTHER AND
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UGED TO BE?

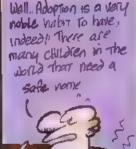


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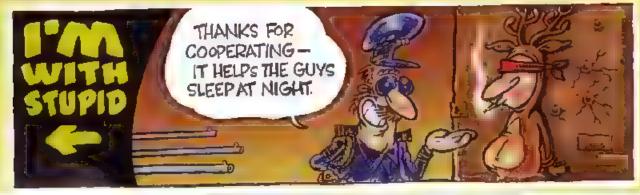


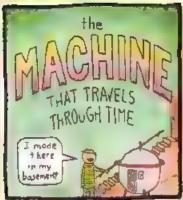






CETTH KMIGHT







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SHEAVE SO

SCOORY-DON'T!







JASON YOMGBUUTH

JUST BELOW THE SURFACE



POBLASTIC

Animoren

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

J.K. Sawting 862 pages Own the latest Harry Potter adventure even though at your friends already read and discussed it long ago Perfect for students whose parents were too lame to et them stay up to buy it right at midnigh, when it terst came out!

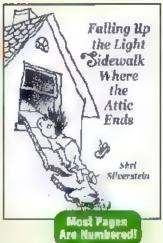
\$19.95 \$21.50



Palling Up the Light Sidewalk Where the Attic Ends

Shel Silverstein 184 pages This brand new book features never-before-seen poems from the late She Silverstein. Of course they've never been seen before because they're an awful and were cut from his aweful books. Collected. from bit old garbage can

\$19.98 \$18168



Frindle 2: On Second Thought...

Andrew Clemente 250 paper

in fifth grade, clever troublemaker Nick Allen asked why a pen needed to be called a pen - why couldn't it be called a. Frindle? Before he knew it, his craty experiment had become a national phenomenon and everyone was calling pens "Frindles" in this satisfactory sequel, Nick decides that maybe "Pen" was a be ter name after all and that whole Frindle" stuff was just a stupid waste of time. As the book ends, a pen is no longer a Frindle - it's a peni-

\$7.94



Holes at Fill 'Er Up!

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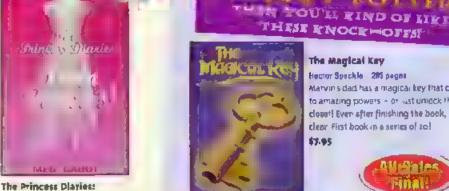
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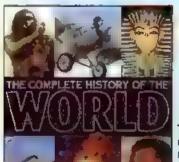
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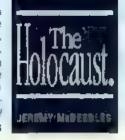
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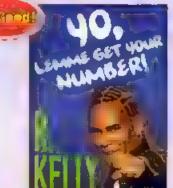
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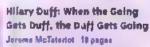
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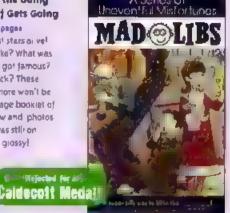
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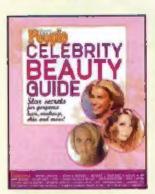
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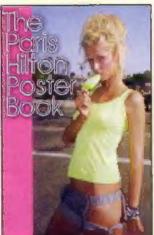
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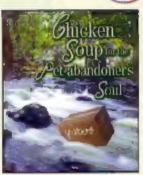
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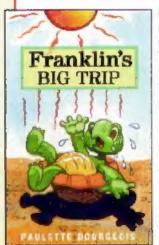
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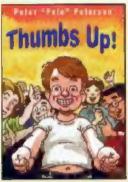
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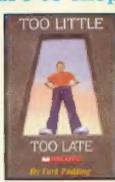
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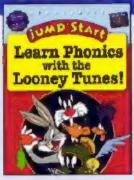


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HOW TO KEEP IT SECRET. AND BECAUSE OF THE
GULLIBILITY OF MANY, IT HAS WORKED. THEIR UTTER
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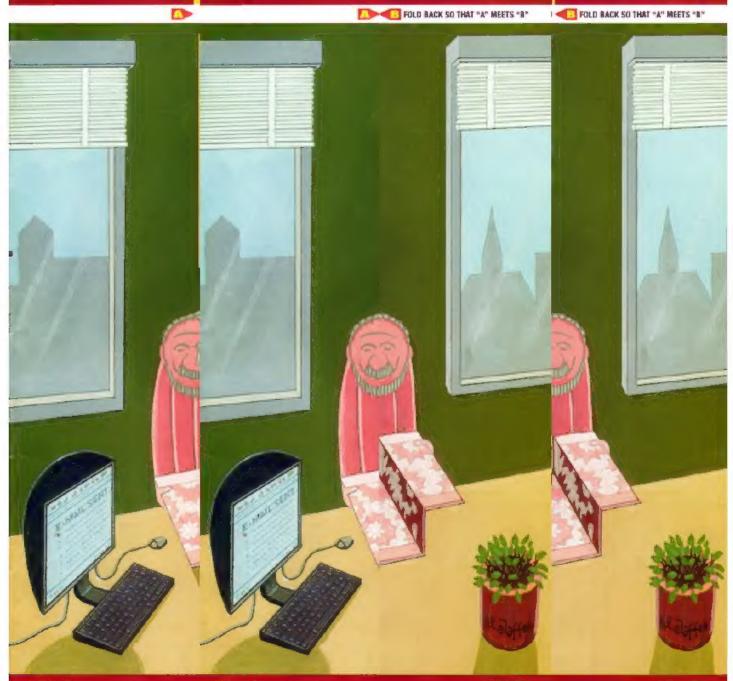
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